



# COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
May 21, 2007

## **SURVEY SHOWS HIGHER LEVEL OF DISASTER PREPAREDNESS** *However, Only Half of San Diego County Residents Have a Family Disaster Plan*

While two-thirds of San Diego County residents feel that it is either likely or highly likely that they will be affected by a major disaster, only half have taken the time to formally plan for such an event, according to survey results released today by the San Diego County Office of Emergency Services.

However, San Diegans fare better than the national average of 39% of all Americans who have prepared a family disaster plan.

"The survey indicates that we, in San Diego County, are making a difference with our public education campaign. We have mailed disaster plans to each household in the county, and used television advertisements and billboards to motivate 300,000 people into taking at least one action to better prepare their families for a catastrophic event," said Ron Lane, Director of the County Office of Emergency Services. "In this case, the glass is both half full *and* half empty."

The Family Disaster and Emergency Planning Survey, commissioned by the Office of Emergency Services, is a scientific survey of 1,200 San Diego residents, conducted by Rea and Parker Research. The survey uncovers numerous indicators of preparedness levels among San Diego County residents, including the following:

- About three-fourths of residents are prepared to evacuate their home in 15 minutes.
- About 40% have a pre-set meeting place outside of their home, if family members are separated.
- About 80% have a three day supply of food and water available at home.

The Family Disaster and Emergency Planning Survey results will be distributed on Tuesday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> at the County Board of Supervisors' meeting, which begins at 9:00 a.m. at the County Administration Center in San Diego.

Ron Lane, Director of the County Office of Emergency Services will be available for interviews following the meeting. ###